GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:399
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON INDIAN TEA BY EGYPT
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Egypt has imposed 30 per cent import duty on Indian Tea against 3 per cent levied for Kenyan Tea;

(b) if so, whether export of tea to Egypt has come down during the last three years as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Egyptian Government;

(e) if so, the response of Egyptian Government thereto; and

(f) the further steps being taken by the Government to increase the percentage of Tea export to Egypt?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.399 FOR ANSWE 23.3.2001 REGARDING ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON INDIAN TEA BY EGYPT.

(a) to (c) : The general rate of import duty on import of bulk and packet teas into Egypt including India is 30%. Egypt is a member of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and therefore extends concession on import duty to other member countries including Kenya. The rate of concession extended to Kenya on tea is 90% thereby bringing the effective rate of import duty on Kenyan tea into Egypt to 3%. As a result, Indian tea prices in Egypt is at a disadvantage and our export of tea to Egypt has declined. Export of tea to Egypt during the last three years was as follows:

Year	Quantity (mn. kgs)	Value (Rs./Crs.)
1998	6.65	52.32
1999	1.25	9.79
2000	0.87	4.04

(d) to (f) : Government/Tea Board had requested the Egyptian authorities to extend similar concessions as being given to Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member countries to India as well. However, this was not agreed to by Egypt Alternatively, it has been suggested that a basket of commodities including tea, may be identified on which import duty could be reduced by both the countries.